

# Claim Your Heavenly Benefits

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## *Claiming Your Benefits in the Natural Realm*

One of the many areas of contention in the world today, which is creating social and political upheaval on a global scale, concerns the benefit packages that employers promise to provide for their workers.

During tumultuous financial times such as these, many business owners or managers seek to negotiate the terms of their employee benefit programs. Obviously, when owners or managers seek to renegotiate their employee benefit packages, the proposal is seldom if ever to expand such programs. Usually the goal is to either reduce their size or eliminate them all together.

Often, attempts by a company to shrink employee benefits fuels strong resentment and meets with stiff resistance and blowback from the employees. It is no exaggeration to suggest that many employees will fight, in both a figurative and literal sense, to safeguard their benefits. Seldom will employees simply acquiesce and give up what they have worked long and hard for without a battle. Consequently, negotiations over entitlements often require the involvement of an intermediary—a mediator—to help the disputants reach a mutually acceptable solution.

In such a process, the mediator strives to protect the interests of all parties involved to the greatest degree possible. While that is not always the result, it is nonetheless supposed to be the sought-after outcome.

Along the above lines, we must make another more important point. In the natural realm, employers provide their employees with an employee manual, which lists all company benefits in writing. It is the employee's responsibility to be familiar with, to understand, and to know how to make use of their benefits. It is not the employer's fault if the employee fails to take advantage of their benefits due to ignorance on their part.

Now let's use the (admittedly simplified) principles established above concerning the potentially volatile and explosive dynamics that can develop when employers and employees renegotiate benefit packages, as a springboard to pondering the parallel spiritual truth that God has promised benefits—a benefit package, if you will—to His people. And, in the same way, if people fail to take advantage of these benefits due to their own negligence and ignorance, it is no one's fault but their own.



### *Knowing Your Benefits in the Spiritual Realm*

So, to begin with, you must be knowledgeable about what your spiritual benefits are because you cannot fight to defend or make effective use of what you do not know is yours. You do that by being competently knowledgeable of the equivalent of the world's employee manual, which is the Bible. Let that get down into your spirit—the Word of God details your spiritual benefits in writing and teaches you how to make effective, God-glorifying, personally empowering use of them. Therefore, to the extent to which you possess a working knowledge of the Word of God is the extent to which you are equipped and empowered to take full advantage of all your spiritual benefits.

Having laid that foundation, we must now familiarize ourselves with some of the basic, elementary spiritual benefits that belong to us as employees of God, which we are in the sense that we are workers together with Him and His Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1), laboring toward the establishment of His will, purposes, and kingdom on Earth.

### *Know and Do not Forget Your Spiritual Benefits*

Psalm 103, counsels the redeemed to “Bless the LORD...and forget not all his benefits.” Hallelujah. There it is. The Word of God emphatically admonishes us to never forget our God-given benefits. Verses 1–7 specify just a few of our benefits, which include this intentionally shortened list:

- God has forgiven all of your iniquities.
- He has healed all your diseases.
- He has redeemed your life from destruction.
- He has crowned you with His lovingkindness and tender mercies.
- He has satisfied your mouth with good things; so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- He shall execute righteousness and judgment for all of the oppressed.
- As God did for Moses, He shall make known His ways unto us.

Moreover, there are other key issues to understand about the spiritual benefits listed in Psalm 103:1–7.

*First*, every spiritual benefit in Psalm 103:1–7 is in the past tense—speaking of what God has bestowed upon us. In other words, God has already done these things for you and me. And as if that was not enough, the Word of God declares that God daily loads us up with more benefits (Psalm 68:19). Hallelujah!

No wonder the Word of God declares, "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy Temple" (Psalm 65:4).



*Secondly*, keep in mind that all of the benefits above are from the Old Testament—the Old Covenant, or old agreement—which God decided to renegotiate. But unlike man, who often renegotiates in order to reduce or eliminate the benefits given to their people, God replaced the Old Covenant—the Old Testament, the old agreement—with a better one (Hebrews 8:13) called the New Testament or New Covenant. Under the terms of this New Covenant, God did not seek to reduce or eliminate the benefits given to His people, but rather He sought to expand them, to give His people exceeding abundantly more than they could even conceive of or ask for so that they could experience an abundant, boundless, limitless life (Ephesians 3:20; John 10:10).

To make sure that we received such a matchless set of benefits, God used the most competent, trustworthy, and excellent mediator that humanity could ever hope to have working in its behalf. God used this mediator because He wanted to reach a guaranteed mutually beneficial outcome between Himself and His redeemed. The name of that mediator is Jesus Christ. This faithful mediator took all of the adverse consequences that comes upon humanity as a result of sin under the terms of the Old Covenant, and bore those consequences Himself. And Jesus did that so that you and I could have every benefit that God has promised us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Wow, just think of that—under the terms of our new contractual agreement with God, Christ Jesus serves as the mediator. Can you imagine how much richer and fuller and more profound—and yes, beneficial—your benefit package is with Christ as the mediator? That is totally awesome!

*Thirdly*, unlike an employee that must work for or earn their benefit package, we cannot earn our benefit package from God. No; God gives us our benefits by grace. God freely gives us benefits because He loves us and we belong to Him. That's it. Period.

*Fourthly*, while it may seem nonsensical to have to state it, this is nevertheless important. In the natural realm you cannot claim benefits from a company that you do not work for. Why mention that? Because the same applies in the spiritual realm. If you are not a co-laborer with Christ—meaning you are not working with Him in order to institute the Kingdom of God on Earth and further His will and purposes—then you are working for another master—the prince of darkness, the god of this world.

Subsequently, any claim to benefits associated with God's Kingdom would be fraudulent, unauthorized and denied. In order to be eligible to claim Kingdom benefits you must be born again. Then and only then can you lawfully and confidently claim Heaven's spiritual benefits.

*Lastly*, as a child of God, you must grasp the unmatched value of your benefit package. You must comprehend that it is priceless. It is worth giving up everything else you possess just to hold onto your spiritual benefits (Matthew 13:44–46). That is why you must be willing to fight the good fight of faith in order to keep your benefit package.

And you must never allow ignorant men or hell's demonic hordes to steal any of your God-given benefits from you (John 10:10). Under no circumstances are you to enter into negotiations with Satan concerning the benefits that God has given to you; they are yours to keep, so do whatever you must—within the boundaries of natural and spiritual laws—to keep them secure.



*Now, go claim your spiritual benefits!*

To God be all the glory!

